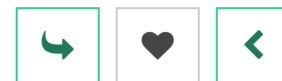


1 2 3

Soldier



Soldiers defend the interests of a country by taking part in peacekeeping missions, supporting humanitarian efforts, or fighting in combat zones.



What you'll do

Soldiers work as part of a country's army, air force, or navy to protect its civilians. Within each faction there are many specialist roles to choose from, including:

Army

- tanker (drive and operate tanks)
- infantry soldier (use weapons in close combat)
- paratrooper (deploy on the front line or behind enemy lines by parachute)

Air force

- weapon systems operator (manage the weapons of an aircraft during missions)
- intelligence analyst (collect and interpret information)
- gunner (specialise in combat tactics and weaponry)

Navy

- mine warfare specialist (find mines using mine-hunting sonar)
- submariner (navigate and control a submarine)
- naval aircraft handler (make sure aircraft are ready for operations)

N.B. the name of a role can differ from country to country. For full details on the range of roles available to you, take a look at the websites for your country's army, air force, or navy.

Record relevant activities you've already done on the [Activities tool](#) >

Working hours and environment

Your working hours will depend on which part of the armed forces you work in. During exercises and operations, you may work long and irregular hours.

You could be posted abroad and may be away from your family for long periods of time.

Your work will be physically and emotionally tough. You'll be working outdoors, and may sometimes work in dangerous combat situations.

Career path and progression

Your career opportunities will depend heavily on your specialism.

With training and experience, you might be able to move up through the ranks or into a specialist unit. You could also gain a commission to become an officer, which would give you a higher salary.

Skills required

You'll need:

- strong physical fitness and endurance – you could be working long hours and/or in physically demanding settings, like deserts or forests
- good listening skills, especially the ability to understand and follow instructions
- the ability to stay calm under pressure, as you'll be working in dangerous situations
- teamwork skills – you'll usually be working closely with others and be responsible for each other's safety
- initiative, so you can make quick decisions in high pressure situations

Got evidence of these skills? Record your examples on the [Skills tool](#) >

Entry requirements

Entry requirements for this role vary around the world, but typically you'll need:

- to be a minimum age, usually 16 or over (or 17.5 for the Royal Air Force)
- to pass medical checks
- to meet physical fitness requirements (or, in the US Army, pass annual fitness tests once you have enlisted)
- to be a citizen of the country you're based in, or meet other requirements (for example, if you're not a citizen but want to train in the US, you'll need to live there, have a Green Card, and have good English language skills)
- to have finished school or still be studying (the RAF has specific grade requirements for GCSE and A Levels/Highers, which can be found on their website)
- to pass a criminal records background check
- to have no tattoos above your collar, or tattoos that are offensive, or in some other visible places on the body (see your country's specific requirements)

In the US, you'll also need to pass an aptitude test called the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB).

In the UK, the RAF requires candidates to be able to swim.

If you're too young to apply to the Royal Navy or British Army, you can join the Sea Cadets or Army Cadet Force. This will help to develop your teamwork skills and give you an insight into life as a soldier.

Related Know-how guides

Explore Know-how guides related to this career:

- [A career in the British Army: What it's really like](#) >
- [Employer profile: Royal Navy, the maritime branch of the British military](#) >
- [Employer profile: British Army, the land branch of the British Armed Forces](#) >

Related university subject profiles

These university subjects are related to this career; check out their profiles on the Subjects library:

- [Sport science >](#)

Related career profiles

You may also be interested in:

- [Bomb disposal technician >](#)
- [Armed forces officer >](#)
- [Intelligence officer >](#)

Explore

Want to see what relevant education and training opportunities are available right now? Search here:

Sport science at uni:

- [USA >](#)
[UK >](#)
[Canada >](#)
[Europe >](#)
[Asia >](#)
[Australasia >](#)
[Middle East and Africa >](#)
[Ireland >](#)

Apprenticeships:

- [UK >](#)

College / Sixth Form:

- [UK >](#)

Labour Market Information (LMI)

Current and predicted figures relating to the Soldier profession. Median averages are shown, each with the specific career, or group of careers, that they apply to.

- UK
 USA

Jobs

Protective service occupations

352,522

 2,308 in your local area of Liverpool

Top 5 local areas

1	Kent	14,690
2	Hampshire	13,219
3	Essex	12,342
4	Surrey	8,908
5	Wiltshire	8,282

Salaries

Non-commissioned officers and other ranks

£33,536

Protective service occupations

£43,032

📍 **£40,861** in your region of North West

Top 3 regions

1	London	£46,096
2	Scotland	£45,600
3	North East	£43,079

Growth

2020-2035

Protective service occupations

-9.1%

↓ 36,040 jobs

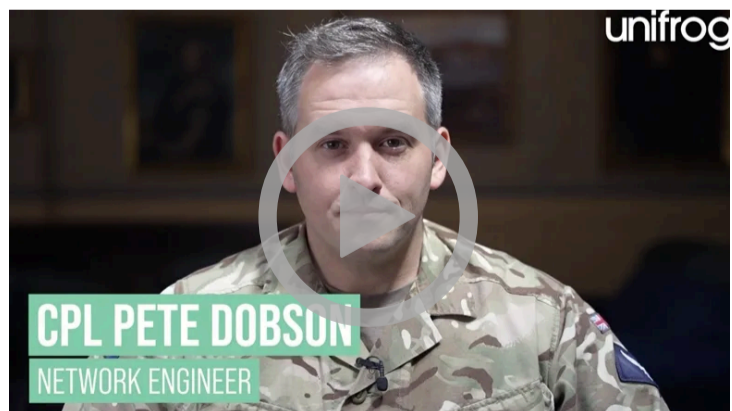
📍 **-15.7%** in your region of North West, an decrease of 5,777 jobs

Save to Favourites? ❤️

You haven't favourited any Careers library profiles yet

People also liked...

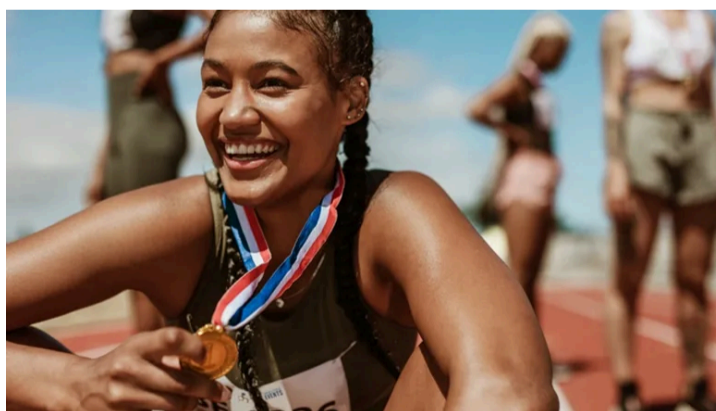
Those that liked this career profile also liked the following



Armed forces officer

Officers in the armed forces command, manage, and motivate teams of soldiers.

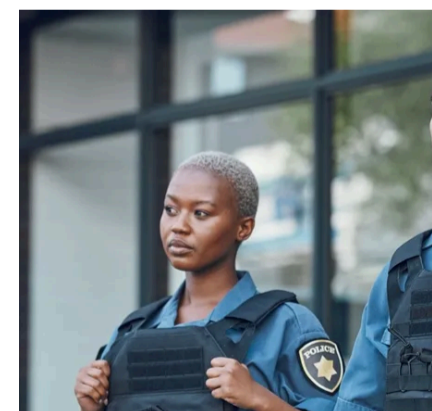
[Read the profile >](#)



Sports professional

Sports professionals are paid to train and compete in their chosen sport.

[Read the profile >](#)



Police officer

A police officer keeps law and order and supports crime prevention.

[Read the profile >](#)